

III. REMARKS

1. Claims 1, 3-9, and 11-17 remain in the application. Claims 2 and 10 were previously cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1, 6, 9, and 14 have been amended.

2. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 5 are patentable over the combination of Crowley (US 5,193,727) and Allen et al. (US 6,549,299, "Allen"), under 35 USC 103(a).

The combination of Crowley and Allen fails to disclose or suggest recording the post processing instructions on a transportable electronic information device without marking any media, and transporting the electronic information device with the printed media from an online printing/copying system where the printing operations occur to a separate offline post processing system where the post processing occurs, as recited by claim 1.

Crowley is directed to a system that incorporates post production operations in the production of a continuous stream of images upon a web. A determination system 44 transfers post production commands to a post production device. However, the determination system 44 is not a transportable electronic information device.

Allen discloses a document printing and finishing system that prints document sheets and an instruction sheet. The instruction sheet includes computer readable finishing instructions. However, Allen fails to disclose or suggest recording the post processing instructions on a transportable electronic information device without marking any media. Allen does not record information on a transportable electronic information device but rather prints on a sheet of media. Thus, Allen also fails to record instructions without marking any media.

At least for these reasons, Applicants submit that the combination of Crowley and Allen fails to render independent claim 1 and dependent claim 5 unpatentable.

3. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3 and 4 are patentable over the combination of Crowley and Allen in view of Webster et al. (US 5,559,606, "Webster") under 35 USC 103(a).

Claims 3 and 4 depend from claim 1.

Webster fails to provide the features of claim 1 missing from the combination of Crowley and Allen, that is, recording the post processing instructions on a transportable electronic information device without marking any media, and transporting the electronic information device with the printed media from an online printing/copying system where the printing operations occur to a separate offline post processing system where the post processing occurs.

At least for these reasons the combination of Crowley, Allen and Webster fails to render claims 3 and 4 unpatentable.

4. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 6 is patentable over the combination of Murata (US 7,054,028) and Webster under 35 USC 103(a).

The combination of Murata and Webster fails to disclose or suggest transporting the electronic information device with the printed media to an offline post processing system, as recited by claim 6.

Applicants appreciate the explanation of the rejection of claim 6 on pages 2 and 3 of the present final action. However, Applicants respectfully disagree. Murata discloses storing image data and control information on a removable storage medium and printing the stored images on another device. Murata does not disclose transporting an information device with the printed media.

Webster also fails to disclose or suggest this feature. Webster does not transfer an information device with the media. Webster transfers information by using a controller to dynamically configure an image processing apparatus. Webster does not transport a transportable electronic information device. There is simply no disclosure related to

transporting a transportable electronic information device with the printed media to an offline post processing system, as recited by claim 6.

Therefore, claim 6 is patentable over the combination of Murata and Webster.

Claims 7 and 8 depend from claim 6 and are patentable at least because of their dependencies.

5. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 9, 13, 14, 16, and 17 are patentable over the combination of Murata, Crowley, and Allen under 35 USC 103(a).

The combination of Murata, Crowley, and Allen fails to disclose or suggest a holding device for conveying the printed media and the transportable electronic information device together from the online printing/copying operation to the offline post processing operation, as recited by claim 9.

Murata has no disclosure related to a holding device as recited by claim 9. Crowley uses a determination system 44 to transfer post production commands to a post production device. As argued above, the determination system 44 is not a transportable electronic information device and Crowley does not transport a transportable electronic information device with any printed media. Thus, there is nothing in Crowley related to a holding device for conveying the printed media and the transportable electronic information device together. Allen discloses an instruction sheet that is clearly not a transportable electronic information device and thus fails to disclose transporting a transportable electronic information device with printed media, and has no disclosure related to a holder for doing so.

At least for these reasons, the combination of Murata, Crowley, and Allen fails to disclose or suggest the features of claim 9.

Claim 13 depends from claim 9 and is patentable at least because of its dependency.

Claim 14 is directed to subject matter similar to claim 1. The combination of Crowley and Allen fails to disclose all the features of claim 14 for the same reasons argued

above supporting claim 1. Murata fails to provide the features of claim 14 missing from the combination of Crowley and Allen, that is, playing back post processing instructions after the electronic information device together with the printed media has been transported from an online printing/copying system where the printing operations occur to a separate offline post processing system where the post processing occurs. Murata does not transport an the electronic information device together with printed media.

Claims 16 and 17 depend from claim 14 and are patentable at least because of their dependencies.

6. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 11, 12, and 15 are patentable over the combination of Murata, Crowley, Allen, and Webster under 35 USC 103(a).

Claims 11 and 12 depend from claim 9.

Webster fails to disclose or suggest the features of claim 9 missing from the combination of Murata, Crowley, and Allen, that is, a holding device for conveying the printed media and the transportable electronic information device together from the online printing/copying operation to the offline post processing operation. Therefore, claims 11 and 12 are at least patentable over the combination of Murata, Crowley, Allen, and Webster because of their dependencies.

Claim 15 depends from claim 14.

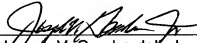
Webster also fails to disclose or suggest the features of claim 14 missing from the combination of Murata, Crowley, and Allen, that is, playing back post processing instructions after the electronic information device together with the printed media has been transported from an online printing/copying system where the printing operations occur to a separate offline post processing system where the post processing occurs. Thus, claim 15 is at least patentable over the combination of Murata, Crowley, Allen, and Webster because of its dependency from claim 14.



For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 24-0037.

Respectfully submitted,



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